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POULTRY FEED IN WINTER

Amateur fanciers of well-bred stock and
others who can scarcely be called fanciers
often grumble and wonder how it is they
never get an egg from their birds during
the hard winter months, when the atmos-
phere is crisp and dry—a time far more
favorable in many respects for fowls than
when the temperature is warmer and an-
teated by damp or raw winds. Well the
reason is simply this—most keepers of
fowls think it is too much trouble to make
their birds comfortable, consequently, (for
birds have more brains than some folks
credit them with), the birds think it too
hard work and too much trouble to produce
nice fresh eggs for ungrateful people, why,
if I were a hen belonging to some of these
ungrateful people—heaven forbid that I
ever should be—I should never dream of
laying an egg unless it was to eat it for my
own breakfast, as many poor hungry birds
do. But your birds should have a very
early breakfast, a thing that is most essen-
tial—about the finest mixture for this first
meal of the day is equal parts of oat and
barley meal containing the husks of the two
different grains, ground through as we
term it—pour some warm soup made
by boiling down some fresh butcher meat
bones &c., mix up well and form the meal
into balls the size of a small orange and of
a nice friable texture, be careful not to
make them sticky or adhesive, give each
bird one of these. At noon give them an
other ball formed of the meal and a warm
potato crushed together, and in the evening
just before roosting time let each bird have
two good handfuls of corn. For a change
and an excellent change it is too—get some
good old ale and soak your refuse crusts of
bread in it. This keeps up the heat of the
body and stamina, and enables them to
withstand the wear and tear on the consti-
tution which is so much greater in the win-
ter than in the genial months. This course
of diet and a place that is entirely free from
cold currents of air for them to roost in will
ensure their laying. I hear others com-
plaining, but I am never short of fresh eggs
in winter when one is worth as much as
three at any other time of the year.

Neglected birds will never pay.

For sure enough they'll never lay.

A. DE. B.

I will say a little about the employment
of fowls in my next.

LANGSHANS.

The Langshan is now widespread, and
its detractors no longer venture to class it
with mongrels, for it is a proved fact it is
not only a distinct breed, but one of the
purest of distinct breeds.

The bird is a beautiful glossy black color
in contradistinction to the dull appearance
of the Black Cochins, which breed is anything
but a success. The black variety of Cochins
has always been most unsatisfactory to
breeders.

Prior to the inception of the Langshan
the approved color for legs of the Black
Cochins was yellow, but in order to compe-
te at all favorably with the glossy plumage of
the Langshan, or to procure it by crossing
with that breed, the yellow leg had to give
way to that of a dark pencilled shade.

Critics have entirely shifted the ground
of their arguments. Instead of now saying
that the Langshan is a Black Cochins—the
outcast of the Black Cochins—they declare
that the Langshan is the original type of
the Black Cochins. One of the advocates
for this course of action says that "A roo-
by any other name would smell as sweet."
True; but then it must have the essential
qualities of the roe! As for the name
"Langshan," it is evidently derived from
the district in which the birds are found.
They are known as Langshans to the Eu-
ropean community in China; they were
imported as Langshans; and it followed as
a matter of course that they should be ex-
hibited as Langshans.

The Langshan Club started in England
in 1877, and have had tough work, but have
unquestionably established the identity of
the breed in the face of opposition of the
most unscrupulous kind. At the shows
wooly Black Cochins have done duty for
Langshans in their own classes, and Black

Cochin breeders advertise and sell their re-
fuge birds as birds of the Langshan type.

All acquainted with the breed are aware
that the Langshan never sports yellow legs.
Yet half-breed Cochins with yellow legs,
entered in the "variety" class as Lang-
shans, have been endowed with prizes; the
same type bird has also in an open Lang-
shan class carried off the club cup, and
when Langshan breeders have written to
remonstrate, pointing out the rule that
excludes in the schedules of every show—
namely, "that birds entered under a wrong
name will be excluded from competition"—
they have been told that there was nothing
unlawful in the award, that the Langshan was
a bad Cochins, and they were advised to
breed for Cochins points.

After the appearance of the Langshan at
Birmingham, one of its local papers stated
that its only good quality was that of being
a capital layer. Another that one of the
judges had been heard to say that "the
Langshan was a good table-fowl, but fit
for nothing else."

A Black Cochins till recently differed
scarcely at all, except in color, from any
other Cochins. It had the same short, yel-
low, profusely feathered legs, the yellow in
the dark varieties being a greenish-yellow
shading into black instead of the bright
yellow of the light-colored birds, yellow
being the essential basis of the colour of
the legs of every variety of Cochins.

In comparing the two breeds, it is not
only as large, handsome, hardy fowls and
good layers, but as table fowls with deli-
cately white and tender skins, breasts well
covered with choicest meat, legs and thighs
in sub-ordinate proportion when dressed,
such as to delight equally the farmer's wife
who is proud of her poultry, and the house-
keeper upon whose table it is destined to
appear, that the Langshan will find a
place, as high, as a test of quality, no
Cochins will ever approach.

They were first exhibited in England at
the Crystal Palace in 1872 by Major Creed,
and now occupy a most creditable place in
the estimation of the Fancy. We shall
soon import some sittings, and hope to be
able to show some birds of this breed at
our various exhibitions in the Dominion
during next season.

POULTRY HOUSES.

As I have had some experience in this
line during the last summer, I have con-
cluded to give you a few words on the
subject. The materials used were red
and white gravel and lime in the propor-
tion of about 10 to 12 bushels of the former
to one of the latter. The house is 25x10
inside, intended for one yard or about 20
birds, and cost \$25. I doing the work my-
self evening and mornings, and as I am
not a mechanic I conclude that those who
would so be compelled to hire the work
done, and who do not care for ornament,
could get a laborer to do it, instead of a
carpenter, and effect quite a saving by so
doing. Indeed, a large farm house was
built here a few years ago of this material,
and the builders were the farmer's two boys
and the hired man. This house was plas-
tered on the outside, and is one of the
finest-looking houses in the locality, and it
did not cost much more than half as much
as frame. My poultry house is enclosed on
the outside with rough lumber on 2x1
scantling, little care being taken to have
the boards fit closely, as the concrete fills
up all crevices. A board was then nailed
on inside and the space, four inches, was
filled with concrete, which was left to set,
which required about twenty-four hours,
when the board was taken off and raised
and again nailed and filled, and so on, till
the top was reached. Height of building in
front, 9 feet, behind 6 ft. shanty roof,
slunged. This outside lining can be dis-
carded, and the house would be the price
considerably, and out of 255 sq. feet of floor
front have 80 square feet of a glassless of
which might do, and effect a further sav-
ing. All my windows have blages on
bottom, so that on a fine day they can be let
down and the house turned into a shed; or,
if desired, can, by hook and strap, be left
open any distance at top.

There is no danger of the concrete
shrinking away from studding and tumbling
off, for small bodies of it over doors and
windows are perfectly solid and as hard as

brick. For floors I put four inches of con-
crete or nearly so, putting down a two-inch
plank for sill, 8 inches wide, and every four
or five feet, tudding of 2x8, simply to nail
boards to form a mould. Now, in con-
clusion, my opinion is, that concrete is cheaper
than wood. It is more substantial. In-
deed, I cannot see why it is not as much so
as stone or brick—by a little extra exp-
ense it can be made just as handsome—and the
walls are vermin-proof, as the substance of
which they are composed precludes all
possibility of vermin gathering on them. I
have a few recipes for making or mixing
concrete, which necessitated the affixing of
the gravel and the mixing of just so much
sand with it, and then mixing fifteen bush-
els of gravel to one of time, but in the
house of which I have spoken and in my
own, the gravel was used just as it came
from the pit, and it set as hard as need be.
—S. S. in American Poultry Journal.

TOO POOR TO TAKE A PAPER.

Moore, of the *Rural New Yorker* was
sitting in his office one afternoon some
years ago, when a farmer friend came in
and said:

"Mr. Moore, I like your paper, but times
are so hard I can't pay for it."

"Is that so, friend Jones? I am sorry

to hear that you are so poor. If you are so

hard run I will give you my paper."

"Oh, no; I can't take it as a gift."

"Well, then, I'll see how we can fix it.

You raise chickens, I believe?"

"Yes, a few; but they don't bring any

thing, hardly."

"Don't they? Neither does my paper

cost anything hardly. Now, I have a

proposition to make to you. I will continue

your paper, and when you go home you

may select from your lot one chicken and

call her mine. Take good care of her, and

bring me the proceeds whether in eggs or

chickens, and we will call it square."

"All right, brother Moore," and the fol-
lowing chuckled at what he thought a capital
bargain. He kept the contract strictly, and
at the end of the year found that he had
paid about four prices for his paper.—He
often tells the joke himself, and he never
had the face to say he was too poor to take
a paper since that day.

Which is the Best Breed?

We are continually in receipt of letters
asking us to indicate which of the various
popular breeds of thoroughbred poultry
is, in our estimation, "the best." Now, we
wish to answer, once for all, this query.
There is no best breed! That is, there is
no breed which will, under all circum-
stances, prove superior to all others. If our
conditions will stand their scrutiny,
conditions of climate, etc., and the pos-
sibilities for which they desire to breed poultry—
whether for the market, for eggs, or the
show-pen—we may be able to give a more
satisfactory answer. For instance, situated
in cold regions, of course delectable varieties,
or breeds having large combs and pendant
wattles, as the Leghorns, should not be so
readily shown as the hardier races—Brah-
mas, Cochins, etc. Or, if the locality be
more temperate, and the desire to breed
for egg-production, Leghorns, Houdans,
Black Spanish, Hamburgs, or like breeds
may be more suitable. As between the
above named breeds, we would hesitate to
place one above the other, though prob-
ably the Leghorns—giving the Brown Leg—
preference—are the most popular at present.
But it is folly for a person to emphatically
declare—as many do—that "the Leghorns
beat the world for laying," or that "the
Hamburgs will lay three eggs to any other
fowl's two," or that "the Black Spanish
are the healthiest, the hardiest, and best-
flavored, and the most profitable layers under
the sun." These assertions, which the
novice hears on every side, and as silly as
they are false, and should be promptly
"set down up." Because of hearing
some veteran fancier-saying Black Spanish
is "the only fowl worth having," many a
beginner is led into, reaching them to the
exclusion of everything else, and so he
loses his raising—if he be an fortunate one he
saves with that part of the business—a lot
of chickens of which there is a super-abun-
dant. Then some one else tells him
some other wonderful breed which totally